

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 1, 3-11 and 16 are currently amended, and claim 15 has been canceled. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1, 3-14, 16 and 18 are pending, and claims 2, 15 and 17 have been canceled.

The applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 13, 14 and 18.

Claims 1, 3-12, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The office action states that it is not clear how a surface facing radially outward can also face radially inwardly. Nothing in claim 1 recites a surface that faces both radially inwardly and radially outwardly, and the office action did not indicate what surface recited in claim 1 allegedly has this quality. The office action also states that claim 1 misidentifies portions of the sprocket body as splines, but the allegedly objectionable terms were not identified. Accordingly, the applicant was not provided with sufficient information as required by 37 C.F.R. §1.104(a)(2) to ascertain how to proceed with existing claim 1.

It is possible that confusion may be caused by the examiner's narrow interpretation of the term "spline" as being limited to a series of projections on one component that fit into slots on a corresponding second component, enabling both to rotate together. According to the *American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, a spline is defined as "a. Any of a series of projections on a shaft that fit into slots on a corresponding shaft, enabling both to rotate together. b. The groove or slot for such a projection." Thus, a groove also may be interpreted to be a spline. That is why the specification refers to "outwardly extending splines 518" in paragraph [0038]. See also Fig. 6(A).

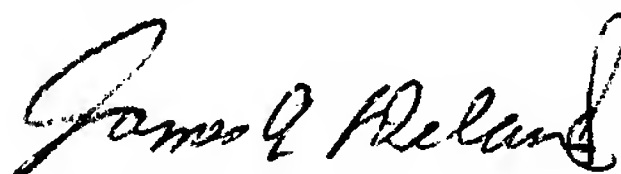
In an attempt to advance prosecution, claim 1 has been extensively rewritten in an attempt to make claim 1 easier to understand in step-by-step reading while maintaining the intended scope. Support for the amendment may be found in paragraphs [0038] – [0042] and Figs. 6(A) and 6(B).

Claims 1, 3-12, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kamada, et al (US 2004/0142783). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kamada, et al discloses a bicycle sprocket 200 having lateral projections or splines 224. The office action separates spline 224 into sections H and J. Section H includes a radially outer surface D facing radially outwardly and a radially inner surface C facing radially inwardly. Similarly, section J includes a radially outer surface B facing radially outwardly and a radially inner surface A facing radially inwardly. The office action interprets surface B as being the radially outer surface recited in claim 1. However, surface B does not face any inner peripheral surface of the sprocket body as required by claim 1.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §112 have been overcome by the foregoing remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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